



NAVY NEWS



Vol. 11/00

Forward ... from the Sea

March 10, 2000

Navy's first MCPON, Del Black, passes away

By MCPON Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Retired Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Del Black died Sunday, March 5, at his home in Winter Park, Fla., from a heart attack. He was 77.

A true pioneer, Black became the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Jan. 13, 1967. The position was then referred to as the Navy's Senior Enlisted Advisor prior to evolving into the current title the Navy knows today.

Black was born in Orr, Okla., and grew up a self-proclaimed "Oklahoma farm boy," before joining the Navy in March 1941. He served on board nine warships for a total of 21 years of sea duty throughout his 30-year career. This included serving aboard USS *Maryland* (BB 46) in Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack.

During his service in the Pacific, he saw his ship torpedoed several times and attacked by kamikaze planes.

"I was definitely haze gray and underway most of my time in the Navy, and I loved it," Black said recently. "Sea duty was one of the most enjoyable aspects of being in the Navy to me. That's where you relied on your shipmates, as you fought, and worked side by side. That's what the Navy is all about," he explained.

Black's tour as MCPON covered the challenging times and issues of the Vietnam Conflict. Black quickly won support of Navy leadership for

his newly established office. He was responsible for initiating the Command Master Chief program throughout the Navy to ensure proper enlisted leadership and representation.

"Not only our enlisted force, but our entire Navy owes MCPON Del Black a great debt of gratitude," said current MCPON, MMCM(SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt. "Americans lost a great military leader, and Sailors lost the best shipmate they could ever hope for," he added.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson said, "I am deeply saddened by the passing of Master Chief Petty Officer Del Black, our Navy's first

MCPON. Master Chief Black was a great leader who was tireless in his pursuit of improving the lives of our Sailors and their families. We are forever grateful for his service to our Nation. He is sorely missed by those of us who were privileged to call him our friend."

Black remained active with the Navy even after his retirement in 1971. He stayed very involved with the Fleet Reserve Association and USO. In a recent interview he spoke of his close ties with the Navy.

"The Navy is and always will be a part of my family. I never consider myself retired from the Navy, just less active.



Retired Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Del Black.
U.S. Navy photo.

See **Black**, page 5

Destroyer named in honor of World War II African-American hero

By OASD (Public Affairs)

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig has announced his decision to name the 41st ship of the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, "*Pinckney*."

Pinckney (DDG 91) will honor Navy Cook 3rd Class William Pinckney (1915-1975), recipient of the Navy Cross for his courageous rescue of a fellow crewmember on board USS *Enterprise* (CV 6) during the Battle of Santa Cruz.

When an explosion killed four of the six men at his battle station in an ammunition handling room, Pinckney and the

other surviving Sailor attempted to exit through a hatch to the hangar deck above. When the other man grasped the scorching hatch, he fell back unconscious. Despite the suffocating smoke, flames, and gasoline fumes surrounding him, Pinckney carried the Sailor to safety. For his selfless heroism, Pinckney was awarded the Navy Cross.

This has been a fitting time to name DDG 91 for Pinckney with Black History Month recently concluded. Pinckney was a 3rd Class officer's cook in part because during his lifetime opportunities were limited for

African American Sailors. Pinckney demonstrated extraordinary heroism despite the discrimination he and other black Sailors lived with on a daily basis.

Danzig remarked, "He embodied the Navy's value of selfless service, at a time when the institution under-valued black service members. His willingness to give so much, and sacrifice for an institution which gave him so little, makes these acts for which he earned the Navy Cross that much more heroic."

"The destroyer, DDG 91,
See **Destroyer**, page 5

Women's History Month observed

By Dana Rayl West, DoN Manpower and Reserve Affairs (personnel programs)

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Throughout the month of March, the Navy is observing Women's History Month with the theme "An Exceptional Century for Women ... Now Imagine the Future."

In a proclamation observing Women's History Month, President Clinton tells the story of three women astronauts who paused last spring during a shuttle mission to pay homage to the past. Thousands of miles into space, they floated above the floor of the shuttle and raised a women's suffrage banner while posing for a picture.

Women of every race, class, and ethnic background are serving as leaders in the private and public sectors. They are leaders in educa-

tion, science and the military.

Today, just over 50,000 women serve in the Navy — 44,279 enlisted and 7,824 officers. More than 10,000 women serve in the Marine Corps. More than 11,468 women serve aboard ships and aviation units in positions from deck seaman to commanding officer.

Officer and enlisted women are assigned to 79 combatants and 50 non-combatant ships. Currently, there are 241 women pilots in the Navy. Women compose 31.6 percent of the Department of the Navy's civilian workforce, totaling over 57,000 in FY99.

In recent Navy history, women have made great strides. In 1973, the first

woman was selected for aviation training. And in 1981, the first woman qualified as an Enlisted Surface Warfare specialist. In 1989, the first woman was assigned as a Command Master Chief at sea. In 1998, five women were selected to command combatant ships. Women will report aboard minesweepers for the first time this year.

"Our choices today will have an enormous impact on the destiny of our daughters and granddaughters, our sons and grandsons," the president said. "We must rededicate ourselves to forging a society in which gender no longer predetermines a person's opportunities or station in life."

Navy relocating ordnance from Vieques

By U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (SOUTHCOM)

ROOSEVELT ROADS, Puerto Rico (NNS) — The U.S. Navy has begun ordnance relocation at Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) Vieques in preparation for the transfer of approximately 8,000 acres of Federal property on the western end of Vieques Island to the Government of Puerto Rico by Dec. 31, 2000. The land transfer is outlined in the Jan. 31 Presidential Directive regarding U.S. Navy training on Vieques Island. The directive also provides for the Navy to maintain 100 acres of land in Western Vieques in conjunction with the existing radar and telecommunication sites.

Anticipated ordnance relocation operations will consist of Navy personnel moving nearly 1,650 tons of conventional munitions from 42 weapons magazines on NASD to storage sites in the Continental United States and at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Ceiba via Navy ammunition ship.

Two Ships



After a fueling replenishment at sea, aircraft carrier USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) and guided missile cruiser USS *Normandy* (CG 60) go their separate ways. The Norfolk, Va.,-based warships are preparing to conduct a Composite Training Exercise (COMPTUEX) in the Atlantic Ocean.

US Navy Photo by Photographer's Mate Third Class (AW) Brian Fleske.

Changes announced for enlisted advancement

By Lynette S. Williams, CNP Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Changes have been made to the Navy Enlisted Advancement System (NEAS) that will further enhance the Navy's future by streamlining the process for the advancement and promotion of Sailors.

In announcing these changes, Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel, stated his commitment to continue supporting all efforts to improve Sailors' opportunities for advancement.

"These changes will insure that the Advancement System continues to properly prepare Sailors for advancement and help to promote the best qualified candidates while reducing unnecessary administrative requirements," said Ryan.

As noted in NAVADMIN 42/00, several timesaving changes are now effective.

With the advent of watch station Personal Qualification Standards and improved shipboard training programs, Personal Advancement Requirements (PARS) are considered outdated and redundant and have been eliminated for advancement exam eligibility. Eliminating PARS will save significant man-hours for Sailors preparing for the exam and will eliminate the effort spent to update and verify PARS completion in the Sailor's service record.

In addition to PARS, Training Manuals (TRAMANs) and Non Resident Training Courses (NRTC)s are no longer



Seamen aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) prepare to take the advancement exam for Petty Officer 3rd Class.
U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Josh Treadwell.

required for advancement exam eligibility. TRAMANs or NRTC)s will still be available, and their completion is essential to support advancement opportunities for Sailors.

Elimination of this requirement will also save time for Sailors and reduce the time spent by educational service officers to verify course completion when ordering exams.

Another change to NEAS allows chief petty officers and above to serve on local

examining boards to administer, proctor, handle, destroy and forward advancement exam returns to the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center. This change expedites and improves accuracy of exam returns while allowing commands to spread the workload during the exam-processing period.

An additional NEAS change includes rescheduling E-4, E-5 and E-6 exams on the first three Tuesdays, respec-

tively, in March and September, with seven days between each exam.

Previously, all three exams were administered within an eight-day period, allowing little time for proper preparation between exams. This change will result in fewer exam discrepancies and faster exam processing.

The last change allows automatic advancement for E-3s after the minimum time in rate at E-2 is met and the candidate has a favorable recommendation for advancement on their most recent evaluation.

Commands presently have all information needed to determine when their junior Sailors are eligible to advance, and by eliminating the requirement to route a special request chit through the commanding officer and the local Personnel Support Detachment, Sailors advance more quickly, adding dollars to their paycheck.

More details regarding the changes to NEAS can be found in NAVADMIN 42/00, on the BUPERS web site at <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>.

E-9 board selections announced

By Lynette S. Williams, CNP Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy selected more Master Chiefs this year than any year since FY92. The FY01 E-9 board selected 597 new E-9s, an increase of 11 from the previous year. This number produced a selection opportunity of 17.7 percent, up from 14.44 percent from the FY00 board.

The increase in the number of Master Chiefs will have a ripple effect by creating more advancement opportunities throughout all paygrades as the Navy force level enters into a steady state.

Results of the board can be found on the BUPERS web page at <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>.

Changes out for 2xFOS officer continuation

By *CNP Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Fiscal Year 2001 Officer Grade Continuation Plan was recently approved by the Secretary of the Navy with changes that improve the notification process.

“Continuation” is the policy by which the Navy may retain selected Regular “career officers” on active duty until retirement eligible.

The majority of these officers are ones who have “Failed of Selection” (or “FOSed”) for promotion to

the next higher grade for the second time. Unless continued, these officers are required, by law, to separate from the Navy after approximately six months.

“New” for FY01, the plan includes changes aimed at reducing the time it takes for twice-FOSed officers to be notified of their selection for continuation. In the past, continuation selection boards were conducted only after the results of the promotion boards were released.

Under the new process however, continuation boards

will be held immediately following the corresponding promotion board.

The results of each board will then be forwarded for approval together. This new way of doing business will allow eligible officers to be notified of their selection for continuation by letter very soon after they first learn of their twice-FOSed promotion status.

“This is one more step in the Navy’s continuing effort to reduce uncertainty by providing more timely communication with its dedicated personnel,”

said Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel.

For more information on continuation, including officer eligibility and the duration of continuation periods offered, see NAVADMIN 041/00 on the BUPERS web site at <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>. Additional questions can be addressed to COMNAVPERSCOM (PERS-813), Officer Separations at (901) 874-3194/3195 (DSN 882) or e-mail pr13@persnet.navy.mil.

Mandatory travel card date extended to May 1

By *Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Service members and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians now have until May 1 before use of the government travel credit card is mandatory, DoD officials said March 3. DoD is one of a number of agencies given two extra months to implement the program, said Nelson Toye, DoD’s deputy chief financial officer.

William J. Lynn, undersecretary of defense (comptroller), signed the memorandum announcing the extension March 1.

“Within DoD, the primary reason for the delay is that we were so late receiving the guidance,” Toye said. “Our components came back to us and asked for an extension. When we applied to the General Services Administration, they were willing to grant us the extension.”

Toye said that GSA officials made it clear there “would be no more extensions.”

Toye’s guidance in the meantime to DoD finance officials is to implement the travel card program to the extent possible. He said the extension does not mean Congress is rethinking the policy. It has just taken longer than expected for government agencies to work out the details.

DoD issued new policies in mid-February to implement travel card requirements in an amendment to the Federal Travel Regulation published by the GSA in the Jan. 19 Federal Register. The amendment implements requirements in the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998.

The DoD began using travel cards in 1983 to pay for lodging,

See *Card*, page 5

Search and Rescue



Search and Rescue crews from USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) return to the ship after a successful “rescue” during a man overboard drill. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer’s Mate John Sullivan.

Black, con't. from pg. 1

Anything I can do to help Sailors, it is my privilege to do, and I always will."

That was obvious in his frequent travels around the world visiting with Sailors. Last December, he celebrated his 50-year wedding anniversary with his wife Ima in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where his career began.

Herdts knows Black as nothing short of a hero.

"Del Black was the John Paul Jones of the enlisted force. He was the warrior, leader,

gentleman, and mentor that began the long march that brought the enlisted force from the era of rocks and shoals to the elite, professional and responsible force we are today. His contributions to our Navy will be talked about far into the future, and written about for all time to come," Herdt proclaimed.

"MCPON Black was an icon for our Navy and, to all of us fortunate to know him personally, he was our hero," Herdt added.

Black's first eight years in the Navy were aboard ships in

the Pacific. His first shore assignment, a 14-month shore tour in Washington, D.C., was where he met his wife, Ima, then it was back to sea for seven more years.

Black was the first Navy enlisted man to be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Black is survived by his wife Ima, in Winter Park, Fla., son Don and two grandsons in Bluntsville, Ala.

Memorial services were in Orlando, Fla., and Washington, D.C., with his burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Card, con't. from pg. 4

transportation, rental cars and other allowable expenses. The current contractor is Bank of America VISA.

For more information on DoD's travel card program, visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service web site at <http://www.dfas.mil> or the Bank of America site at <http://www.bankofamerica.com/government>.

Destroyer, con't. from pg. 1

will embody the name of William Pinckney very well. Like Pinckney, its relatively small size belies the tremendous feats that it will accomplish. Like Pinckney, the ship will be an individual force, often standing proudly alone for the nation — yet it is also part of an unbeatable team. And as a warship, USS *Pinckney* will be

an ambassador for American ideals that William Pinckney, through his single act of bravery, helped to strengthen as part of the American experience," said Danzig.

"Any Sailor having the great honor of serving aboard USS *Pinckney* will be challenged to live up to the ship's great namesake," added Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

MMCM(SW/AW/SS) James L. Herdt. "Petty Officer Pinckney was truly a hero among heroes, and it is the Navy's distinct honor to name a great ship after such a great man. The quality of Sailors we're lucky enough to enjoy today will make Americans proud as the ship sets to sea. Like Petty Officer Pinckney, USS *Pinckney* and her crew will always stand for

what's right, even when doing so is not easy."

Former Chief of Naval Operations, the late Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, said in the early 1970s, "There is no black Navy, no white Navy — just one Navy — the United States Navy."

There will soon be another United States Ship to solidify those words, USS *Pinckney* (DDG 91).

On Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's show:

- * Naval leaders testify before two Senate committees on the state of the Navy and Marine Corps;
- * The first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MCPON Black, passes away at his home in Florida;
- * The parachute demonstration team, Leap Frogs, prepare to drop in on a baseball game in Florida;
- * Find out how junior Sailors are getting a free trip home with the Navy's new Bluejacket HARP program.

Compiled on tape #2000-11, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: March 15, 1943

Admiral Ernest J. King, serving in dual roles as Commander-in-Chief U.S. Fleet and CNO, implemented a new standardized fleet numbering system to identify task organizations and their components. This numbering system (5th Fleet, 6th Fleet, 7th Fleet, etc.) is still in use.

Submarine Centennial history: March 15, 1943

USS Triton (SS 201) was lost at sea in the Solomons-Bismarck area near New Guinea after a battle with two Japanese destroyers during its sixth war patrol. Seventy-four souls were lost.

After sighting an enemy convoy, Triton gave chase and engaged the vessels but drew gunfire and depth charges from the destroyer escorts. Japanese war records reported that the convoy found "a great quantity of oil, pieces of wood, corks and manufactured goods bearing the mark 'Made in U.S.A.,'" all of which attested to Triton's sinking.

For more information on the Submarine Centennial, go to <http://www.navy.mil> and click on "Submarine Centennial."

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